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SMILE - DRAFT



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Chapter 1 by CAZZA LOVE

Chapter 1

Light. I woke up to light. I didn't know where I was or who I was. I did remember how to walk and ride a bike but not who taught me. I stood up and noticed something printed on my arm in black bold letters "L30.03" I didn't understand what it meant so I ignored it and put on some clothes. At the end of my bed there was a wardrobe I walked over to it and opened the large wooden doors to find multiple copies of the same suit coming with shoes, ties and socks. I put on one of the sets and left my room. Outside there was a hustle and bustle as people walked around the streets constantly stopping to say "Hello" and "Good day to you" with a wide grin planted on their faces. "Hi there!" I heard someone shout from behind me "are you L30.03?" I turned around to see a young woman approaching me, "I think I am..." I answered still staring at the woman. "Okay cool! Follow me I will show you around."

She took me to a tall building and led me inside. The spire on top of the building looked like a persons head could be impaled on it, I felt a sudden chill go down my spine. "Okay here is the church or as we like to call it the Leaders Temple, here we like to show our gratitude to thou gracious Senpai who brought us life into this wonderful worry free world". I noticed a statue of a man wearing a mask portraying a smiley face. However something seemed amiss, "What's that statue for?" I heard someone say, "Well, that is Senpai, you have to show your respects and come here everyday if anyone dares disrespect him, he'll be the dinner!"

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She continued laughing at her disturbing joke. I heard a few gasps from the crowd and there was silence until the woman spoke again. "However I hope this will not occur on behalf of myself and our leader Senpai, Shall we move on?" She didn't give us much time to answer as she was already half way down the street. We approached a building that was five storeys high. I could see through the window that people who worked there seemed to be typing in sync as if they were robots. She led us through a large wooden rickety door. "This is the home office; here you will get chipped so the government can keep you all safe! Isn't that good!" She put on a grin which seemed to spread from ear to ear. She lined us up ready to get chipped I wasn't so sure about it but I didn't have much choice. "Stand over here and walk through so the..." but she was interrupted because someone behind us in the line shouted "Run! Run as fast as you can, don't smile they'll only take you" I panicked and shouted "Where will they take us?" The woman called for security so I couldn't hear much as they dragged him off, "To the crazy house!" he shouted, his screams being muffled by the security.

The woman started speaking again, "After that, brief incident lets just get chipped then you're free to go!" I did as I was told; I walked through this booth and felt something spray into my face. Black. Everything was black. I didn't know if I was hallucinating but I could hear this:

"Do you think he's awake?"

"No, otherwise he would be screaming in pain, this chip can be painful to insert." However, I wasn't screaming in pain... what was wrong with me? I didn't feel anything, just like I was asleep and this was a whole dream. Nevertheless, it felt too real to be a dream. It continued;

"Sir, the chip has been installed."

"Okay, deliver him to his room, he shouldn't remember anything when he wakes up," but I did... I did.

Chapter 2

I woke up in my room to find that it was yet another day. I put on another of my suits and walked out the door. There was that woman again. "Hello, how are you today?"

"Er, well..."

It was a rhetorical question.

"Oh, sorry" I felt stupid now. She ignored me and carried on walking.

"Today you shall go to work at the offices."

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"The offices? What am I supposed to do there?"

"You have to just type all 10,000 rules a day."

"Oh that sounds easy, wait 10,000 rules?"

"Yes, we have a book which you can copy from; it's just to make you familiar with our rules." We carried on walking silently, why did I have to copy up the rules? Was it something everyone had to do? We finally approached a building, quite tall with delicate glass windows, these people looked normal, not typing in sync. Just average people like me. "Go ahead! Check in at reception, someone will show you where you work there. Goodbye and don't forget to smile!"

I walked inside and someone greeted me at the door, "Hello L30.03, follow me, I'll show you where you will be working from now on." They led me to a desk next to a man in a similar suit to myself and he had a tattoo like mine. It read J03.73; I sat down and tried to find the computer to start work. "Hey, L30.03 right? Im J03.73 but you can call me Joe."

"Oh hey, I guess I'm Leo then?"

"That's cool." I started typing and Joe did too. I didn't realise how stupid some rules were like "Love the leader and him alone" and "No going out after 7."

After hours of typing out the rules, I finally heard the loud speakers voice echo through the premises: "Work is over, go back to your homes and remember to smile!"

As I walked home I thought about what remember to smile meant as it seemed to be something they said a lot here. I got home and went to bed. Remember to smile...

Chapter 3

At work today, I sat down at my desk and spoke to Joe for a while. I wondered, Who sat here before me? So I asked longingly, "Joe, was there always a space here?"

"To be honest with you, there was someone else here he was AN5Y.33 or as we called him,

Andy. The thing is... he started talking about the government saying things like he hates them trying to rebel! It was all going well until he disappeared. I like they never existed, poof, gone."

"Wow that's scary..."

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"Uh-huh that's why we never spoke about this okay?"

"Yeah ... sure whatever."

"Great, have a nice day at work!"

So many questions were rushing around my head but all I did was type, it was the only thing I could do. "BING BONG" the loudspeaker shouted across the building. "Free time; make your way to the church slowly and in order. Remember to smile!" I caught up with Joe as the massive crowd of people rushed through the building.

"Hey! Joe wait up," I shouted across the hallway.

"Oh, hey Leo"

"I thought this was free time, why are we going to the church?"

"To worship the Senpai our leader, we do this everyday." I looked confused,"oh I guess you were on the tour when it happened. Basically, we just go to church say some prayers then come back to work. Nothing special." We finally got to the church and it was there again, the statue. I asked Joe "Don't you think the mask is a bit creepy?"

"Yeah, I think it's got something to do with remembering to smile and all that." I thought about that phrase. Well yeah, to be honest with you they do say that a lot. But why? I asked myself. After praying to Senpai we went back to work but as we were about to sit down and carry on, there was an announcement, "Please go home as there has been a technical difficulty. You may now have free time." There was cheering and laughter ringing through out the building, "And don't forget to smile!" Well, everyone did... but not for long.

Chapter 4

I followed Joe out the building when he asked," So, want to come to the tavern with me?" I looked at him, I didn't seem to remember what a 'tavern' was. "It's a pub." A pub? Now I was really confused. "A place where you buy drinks and liquor." Ah! I understood now. It was hard getting used to the whole memory thing so I just followed Joe and hoped I would remember more.

We walked into this building which looked completely derelict and I was getting worried. "Joe? Are you sure this is the right place?" He looked at me as if I had just asked if the Pope was catholic but finally answered back "Yeah, just trust me on this" I followed him in to find men

dancing around tables and drinking large bottles of liquor. Everyone seemed so happy but I recognised none of these men. We were ordered us drinks, half the men recognised him and y

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Everyone seemed to be having a good time and even I started to have a bit of a dance. Then it was all over so quickly. Bang bang bang, went the steel wooden door. No one ever knocked at the door, it wasn't allowed. Only the guards knocked. All the music stopped, all the people stopped laughing, there was no smile in sight. Just sorrow and pure terror. Joe looked at the door and looked at me, I could just see the anxiety in his eyes. He slowly lead me over to behind the bar and pulled one of the beer handles. "What are you doing? They're going to hear you!" I whispered. When I realised, it opened up a cave of some sort, we were about to climb through when we heard the toilet flush and a man shouting, "Woah? What happened while I was on the loo?" BANG BANG BANG went the gun. Everyone was screaming, everyone was panicking. With no where to hide, no where to go. Joe signalled to me and jumped down the cave. Before the I jumped down the bar man stopped me, "Please" he cried, "I have children" I saw the pure horror on his face so I let him go. Then the cave locked shut. He tricked me! You weren't aloud to love anyone anyway!

I tried to find the best hiding place I could and finally found a small desolate space under the bar counter. I sat there and prayed to the Senpai (which was ironic on so many levels)

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